



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Neil R. Aukland, et al.

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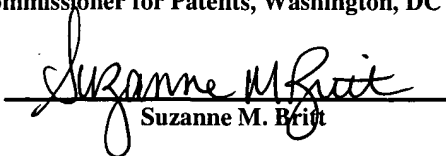
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Suzanne M. Britt

Box: AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows prior to examination on the merits.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 5 of this paper.

**Drawing Corrections** begin on page 9 of this paper

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.

**Appendices**, including corrected drawing figures and clean and marked-up versions of the substitute specification, are attached following page 10 of this paper.